

all of the elements of the claims of the present application as arranged and operating in those claims, and does not anticipate any of those claims.

Moreover, the reason why the Ohlsson '530 patent was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement was not because it is available as prior art against the subject matter of the present application, but only because the Examiner may have considered it relevant with respect to an obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Applicant did not and does not believe that such a double patenting rejection would be proper in view of the complete absence in the disclosure and claims of the Ohlsson '530 patent of a signal generator in the interface unit, nevertheless Applicant made the Ohlsson '530 reference of record so that the Examiner could review it for herself. If such a double patenting rejection were made at this time, it would be traversed by the Applicant.

The Ohlsson '530 patent is not available as prior art against the present application because the present application claims the benefit of convention priority based on Swedish Application No. 0001999-2, filed in the Swedish Patent Office on May 29, 2000. The certified copy of the priority document has already been filed, and since it is in English, no further steps are necessary for the Applicant to perfect his claim for convention priority. The Ohlsson '530 patent has an effective date for prior art purposes as of its United States filing date, which is March 7, 2001. Since this is after the convention priority date to which the present Applicant is entitled, the Ohlsson '530 patent is not available as prior art against the subject matter of this application.

Additionally, claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Swenson et al. in view of Faisandier, further in view of Enszt et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

In the previous Office Action dated May 19, 2003, the Examiner relied on the Swenson et al. reference in combination of the Fine et al. reference for rejecting some of these claims. Applicant provided arguments in his response to that Office Action as to why these references did not provide teachings that would have made the subject matter of the rejected claims obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art. The Examiner stated these arguments were persuasive, and the earlier rejection was withdrawn. In the present rejection, the same primary reference (Swenson et al.) has been used, but instead of the Fine et al. reference as a secondary reference, the Examiner is now relying on Faisandier and Enszt et al.

Applicant's position regarding the teachings of the Swenson et al. reference has been extensively set forth in the response filed on November 24, 2003, and need not be repeated herein. In summary, it is Applicant's position that the Swenson et al. reference has no need to provide the interface with a signal generator that generates a signal unique to and originating from the interface, because the Swenson et al. reference is for use with one and only one interface, that can be differently configured (i.e., the sockets can be differently electrically connected to each other) depending on the type of examination that is being undertaken. Because the signal to configure the interface unit is provided from the therapy unit itself (which also can operate in different modes for conducting different types of examinations) there is no need for the therapy unit to receive any information whatsoever back from the interface unit, because the therapy unit already "knows"

how the interface unit has been configured. As the Examiner has noted, the interface unit in the Swenson et al. reference does transmit a signal back to the therapy unit when the connectors have been properly inserted in the sockets that will be used for the currently-programmed type of examination, however, this is not a signal “unique to” the interface unit, but is merely a signal that indicates that the correct plugs have been inserted in the correct sockets.

The interface unit and the electrophysiology measurement system disclosed and claimed in the present application are for the purpose of solving a different type of problem, although they both also operate to ensure that a correct plug insertion has taken place. As explained in the introductory portion to the present application, a problem that exists in addition to the problem of correctly inserting the plugs in the sockets of the interface device is that different types of interface devices may be used in a medical environment, and it is important for the electrophysiology system to “know” which interface unit is currently connected thereto. This is why in the subject matter of the present application it is provided to generate, from a signal generator at the interface unit, a signal that is unique to and originates from the interface unit. This allows a user at the electrophysiology system display to ascertain whether the intended interface unit in fact is present.

Applicant acknowledges that neither independent claim 1 or 10 claims a plurality of interface units, however, this is not necessary because the use of a signal generator at the interface unit for generating a signal originating from and unique to the interface unit has utility only if multiple interface units are used (or at least the possibility of using multiple interface units exists). If one and only one interface unit

is used, as in the Swenson et al. reference, there is no need whatsoever for such a signal generator, and it would serve no purpose.

Neither of the secondary references on which the Examiner now relies, in place of the Fine et al. reference, provide a teaching for a signal generator at the interface unit. The Faisandier reference merely discloses a programmable interface, but again does not have any need to generate a signal originating from and uniquely identifying the interface. Moreover, since the interface in the Faisandier reference can be programmed in many different ways, merely having a signal that identified the interface itself would serve no purpose, since such a signal would not indicate how the interface has been currently programmed.

The Enszt et al. reference is not directed to a medical device or medical system, but is instead directed to a telephone switching system, wherein plates can be affixed over the connections at a terminal box on which an identification of the currently wired terminal connections can be made. This does not correspond to the overlays set forth in claims 1 and 10, for several reasons.

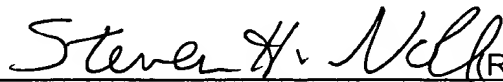
First, as explicitly set forth in each of claims 1 and 10, the overlay has a permanently fixed visible indication of the mating configuration *and* a humanly readable layer identification code. Again, the layer identification code is present because it is necessary to be able for a user to identify which overlay is currently in place, so that the user can verify that it is in fact the correct overlay. The plates that are affixed to the switching box in the Enszt et al. reference merely serve as labels that are completed *after* the hardwired connections have already been made. Moreover, there is no assurance that the labels, which are merely written by hand on the plates, will be correct. If human error occurs in writing an incorrect label on one

of the plates, there is no way in the Enszt et al. reference that this error could be detected, and even if the label-carrying plates disclosed in the Enszt et al. reference were used in combination with the system and interface disclosed in the Swenson et al. and Faisandier references, there still would be no way to detect such a mislabeling error.

Therefore, even if the Swenson et al. reference were modified in accordance with the teachings of Faisandier and Enszt et al., an interface unit as set forth in claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom, and an electrophysiology treatment system, as set forth in claim 10 and the claims depending therefrom, still would not result. None of those claims, therefore, would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the relevant art based on the teachings of these references.

All claims of the application are therefore submitted to be in condition for allowance, and early reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Submitted by,

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